

Support E-Tracking of Pseudoephedrine Sales

Organizations and Companies Supporting E-Tracking:

Perrigo Company • MI Deputy Sheriff Association • MI State Medical Society •
MI Pharmacists Association • MI Osteopathic Association • Merck • Novartis •
Police Officers Assn of MI • Attorney General of MI • Prosecuting Attorney's Association
of MI • Johnson and Johnson • Pfizer • National Federation of Independent Business •
MI Association of Health Plans • MI Retailers Association • Sanofi Aventis •
MI Grocer's Association • Rattle with US • Gene Clem, SW Michigan Tea Party Patriots
President • MI Academy of Family Physicians

- ✓ **Electronic tracking (NPLeX) is the only real-time, stop sale solution that also maintains consumer access to safe and effective cold and allergy medicines containing PSE.**
 - E-tracking (NPLeX) is a "real-time" system that allows a retailer/pharmacist to refuse an illegal sale, based on purchases made anywhere in the state.
 - E-tracking (NPLeX) is the only system that can provide real-time, stop-sale across multiple states.
- ✓ **E-tracking has a proven track record and blocks thousands of attempted purchases.**
 - Eighteen states have adopted electronic tracking statutes, and states like California are currently considering adopting the system.
 - In the eight states that have had the system in place long enough to track sales, e-tracking technology blocks nearly 126,000 grams of illegal pseudoephedrine sales per month.
 - In South Carolina, e-tracking blocked the illegal sale of nearly 6,000 boxes of PSE medicines in January 2011 alone.
- ✓ **E-tracking gives law enforcement the necessary tools to find and shut down meth labs**
 - Law enforcement knows who was blocked for attempting to buy PSE medicines in excess of the legal limits in real-time and can use that information to identify trends and clues into criminal activities.
 - The track record shows that in states where an e-tracking system was put in place labs detected by law enforcement increased. Law enforcement there has the e-tracking tool they need to find these labs quickly and shut them down.

**Support SB 333 sponsored by Sen. John Proos and
HB 4749 & 4750 sponsored by Rep. Amanda Price**

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June 22, 2011

The Mining Journal

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To the Journal editor:

Michigan is battling an increasingly serious meth problem. This extremely addictive, dangerous drug has not only taken a tight grip on many of our communities, its production is leaving behind mini-toxic waste dumps that put our health at risk.

In the last few years alone, the number of meth lab incidents recorded by the Michigan State Police has more than doubled, with 760 reports in 2010.

Unfortunately, the ingredients for creating meth include common cold medicines that Michigan families rely upon every day. Michigan has a system in place to limit the purchase of large quantities of medications containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in meth, but criminals are gaming the system.

While each purchase is tracked under the current system, stores selling the drugs have no way of communicating. Criminals get around legal limitations on the amount that can be purchased by simply shopping at several different stores to get the amount they need.

Clearly, more needs to be done to limit meth production.

One solution to further restrict access to these cold medicines is to require a doctor's prescription anytime you or a family member needed sinus medication. However, such a mandate would increase health care costs and impose unnecessary new burdens on Michigan residents, especially in medically underserved areas.

Instead, we can take advantage of technology to spot and stop criminals in real time without putting new burdens on Michigan families. Under legislation sponsored in the Michigan Senate, an e-tracking system, the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEX), could dramatically slash access to common meth ingredients. NPLEX uses the Internet to provide pharmacists with real-time information about persons attempting to buy large quantities of these drugs, allowing drug stores to refuse sales to criminals seeking to produce meth.

To date, 16 other states have already implemented such a system, blocking thousands of illegal purchases and helping keep drugs off the streets. In the eight states that have had the system in place long enough to track sales, this system blocked nearly 126,000 grams of illegal pseudoephedrine sales per month.

As your attorney general, my job is to protect public safety. This bill would create a system to do just that by stopping criminals seeking to produce meth without placing costly new burdens on Michigan families. I applaud this common sense protection for Michigan

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Bill Schuette, attorney general

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<http://detnews.com/article/20110526/OPINION01/105260341>

Patterson: Michigan Senate bill could curb meth abuse through tracking system

L. BROOKS PATTERSON

I have been serving our region for four decades with the goal to make Oakland County among the best places to live, work, play and raise a family.

From my early days as county prosecutor and now as Oakland County executive, I have witnessed the results of the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities.

Methamphetamine is among the drugs that is drawing a great deal of attention lately around Michigan. Like other drugs, meth has deadly consequences, but it poses an additional threat: it often is made in a neighborhood home, leaving behind a toxic, poisonous mess that poses a danger to nearby families.

Virtually everyone agrees that strong steps must be taken to crack down on the production of meth. The most effective way to do that is to restrict access to some of its precursor ingredients, namely, pseudoephedrine. That's an ingredient found in dozens of over-the-counter cold and allergy remedies that many of us use on a regular basis.

However, I disagree with those who propose to require a doctor's prescription to buy pseudoephedrine-containing cold medicine. It's simply not reasonable to ask every parent to take an afternoon off of work every time a child has a cold, or when allergies kick in and they need relief. It's not sensible to require additional co-pay for a doctor's office visit. Plus, it's not prudent to put an even greater burden on Medicaid, the program taxpayers fund to provide health care for low-income families.

Fortunately, there is a better solution. The Michigan Senate recently passed — with unanimous support — Senate Bill 333 sponsored by Sen. John Proos. This law would set up a real-time electronic tracking system to block the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine if the purchaser exceeds legal limits. Pharmacists would simply input the purchaser's information into the system and if they exceeded the legal limit for the day or the month the pharmacist would be notified to refuse the sale.

This electronic system would replace the paper logs that have proven burdensome to retailers and pharmacists. These paper logs have been an inadequate tool for law

enforcement that currently has to comb through page after page to compare stores in the area to identify individuals abusing the system.

To date, 16 states have adopted this electronic stop-sale technology. The results are encouraging. Already this system is blocking the sale of nearly 126,000 grams of illegal pseudoephedrine sales per month.

The electronic tracking system also stops those in search of pseudoephedrine products from simply crossing state lines to evade the sales limit, enabling neighboring states to work together more effectively to stop the excessive sales of pseudoephedrine products.

It also doesn't burden consumers with time-consuming and expensive doctor visits. And it doesn't add to retailers' or governments' cost of doing business; the makers of pseudoephedrine-containing products fund the system.

In all my years of protecting Oakland County families from illegal drugs, this is one of the most impressive tools I've seen to keep these poisons off our streets.

L. Brooks Patterson is Oakland County Executive. Email comments to letters@detnews.com.

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